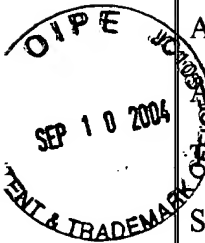


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant(s): John Brian Pickering
Assignee: IBM Corporation
Title: Voice Processing System

Serial No.: 09/696,485 Filing Date: 10/25/2000

Examiner: Susan Iris McFadden Group Art Unit: 2654

Docket No.: GB9-1999-0107US1 Conf. No.: 3603
(a/k/a 7036-P145US)

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Dallas, Texas
September 7, 2004

Technology Center 2600

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED 5/4/04

I. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action dated May 4, 2004, having a shortened statutory period expiring on August 4, 2004, extended to September 7, 2004 (since September 4, 2004 fell on Labor Day weekend) by the petition and fee filed concurrently herewith. Further examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the remarks set forth below.